

CITY OF EDGEWOOD
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2006
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Link called the meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers of the Edgewood City Building. The following council members were present: Nancy Atkinson, Bill Grady, Scott Guenther, Dale Henson, Jeff Schreiber, and Ray Spears. Also in attendance were City Administrator Roger Rolfes, City Attorney Frank Wichmann, and Sr. Deputy Clerk Mary Jane Lucas. Mark Steffen was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMENTS FOR ADOPTION OF THE 2006/2007 PROPERTY TAX RATE – Mayor Link announced the proposed tax rate for 2006/2007 as \$0.256 for each \$100.00 evaluation and opened the floor for comments. Mr. Grady thought they should keep the same rate as this past year (\$0.2518); he stated that it was above the compensating rate and below the compensating rate plus 4%. He did not wish to raise taxes and felt it would engender sufficient tax revenue. Mr. Spears agreed to support not increasing the tax rate. Mr. Rolfes stated for the record that as of that date, he had not received any other public comments. Mayor Link closed the public hearing.

SWEARING IN OF PART TIME PATROLMAN AARON WAGNER – Police Chief Tony Kramer introduced Aaron Wagner as our new part time officer follow by a brief summary of his background and future goals. Mayor Link then swore him in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mrs. Atkinson made a **motion** to adopt the August 7, 2006 minutes as written; second by Mr. Henson. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

RUMPKE REQUEST – Mr. Rolfes stated that he was approached by Rumpke to do a demonstration project with roll out trash containers (waste wheelers) and they felt it was beneficial not only to the city but also to Rumpke from the stand point of saving time and labor. He explained that Rumpke would provide 96-gallon containers to each of the 3,200 Edgewood residents, at no cost, for the balance of their contract, which will run out in about 5 years. The lease would be terminated for those residents (approximately 150) who presently lease the receptacles and they would get them free. He also said there would be no restrictions on the amount of trash that could be put out; the only request was that any amount over what the container could hold be put out in trash “bags”. Other items to be set out would be handled the same as in the past. Mr. Greg Pitzer, Rumpke Representative, responded to Mr. Grady’s question that recycling would still be serviced the same from a separate truck. He then explained how the truck operates with one arm lifting and dumping the trash into the front of the truck, it can handle large items as well. Mr. Schreiber inquired about possible damage to or theft of the container. Mr. Pitzer explained that each can is set up as a part of the residence, not the owner’s property, and will be serviced accordingly at no charge. If stolen, it will be replaced but require a police report if stolen a second time. A serial number will be on the can that will correspond with the house number. Mayor stated the program would be highlighted in the next newsletter. Mr. Pitzer added that a flyer would be sent to each resident, which would help answer questions, and the program should begin around the end of September. A hang-on will be attached to each waste wheeler with further instructions for proper placement. Upon request, He informed council that there were no issues with moving the waste wheelers because of their size, the lids are secure, and the residents are not required to have one, they can choose to just use a bag.

Mr. Henson made a **motion** to allow Rumpke to implement a waste wheeler program in the City of Edgewood; second by Mrs. Atkinson. **Motion passed: 6 ayes - 0 nays.**

FREEDOM PARK SOCCER FIELD – David Schulte, Dixie Soccer, addressed council with his full support of changing the field and willingness to make a financial commitment. He was not prepared to give the amount or length because part of the revenue would come from soccer tournaments. He said being an all weather field, they could put from 2 to 4 tournaments a year with each conservatively producing \$2,000 to \$5,000 a year. The construction of the field would have a major impact on what they could do. He explained that if the field could be at least 50 yards x 100 yards, they could actually have two small fields, one long field going the length, and with smaller sided games, could play 4 on 4, 6 on 6, and 8 on 8. He further stated that using half the field going south, they could actually have 2 fields, which would eliminate a lot of the problems with scheduling games & practice. It would also allow them to have a tournament with 14 to 16 teams, which would generate more income than having one field, which could probably handle 8 teams at the maximum. The going rate for a tournament for registration per team is about \$300; part could be pledged to the city and part to Dixie Soccer. Mr. Schulte said a field 50ft. wide by 100ft. long could be used all the way up to a U16 team. In addition, the Northern KY Soccer League would also be able to donate money yearly to off set the cost (handout with maximum and minimum for field dimensions was distributed).

Discussion was held concerning the fence. Mr. Schulte said the new fence could tie into the volleyball fence and the other side would be in or out side of the path; either way would leave enough space for the team and spectators. Nancy Atkinson did not want to consider closing off the path. Mr. Schulte stated that the preliminary measurement inside track and parallel with the volleyball fence is 175 ft. from the edge of the sidewalk to the edge of the new memorial leaving 25 ft available for sidelines. Stan Goetz reported that prices were received on the U10 field. He distributed a handout with minimum and maximum sizes per age group for the new short-sided games showing the U8 & U10 having the same dimensions. Mr. Rolfes added that what was measured and priced in the existing soccer field, 45w x 70L, is the minimum for a U12 short sided field. Mr. Schulte said to be as versatile as possible, 50 yards wide was critical and 50yd x 100yd was the best use of the money because it could accommodate all age groups. Mr. Rolfes explained why the length could not be indefinite because the baseball field must be considered. Recommendations and new measurements will be made. Mayor Link suggested the path could be moved. Mr. Schreiver & Mr. Henson advised getting bids. Mr. Guenther suggested getting estimates for additional dimensions before bids and stated he was 100% in favor of supplying Dixie Soccer with a quality field. He also addressed the artificial surface vs. the sodding and natural surface, suggested the numbers for sodding & maintenance seemed high, and would like to see what other cities pay for that type of surface. Mr. Rolfes said to structure the bids specs to get quotes on sod as well. He advised that if we do this, it is still a public field and not exclusive to any organization; we would want to control access with strict guidelines. Mr. Schreiver would like the field to be reserved 2 nights for adults. Mr. Rolfes corrected any misunderstanding about prior field maintenance, which did not include sod and, therefore, our prior expenses could not be compared with artificial turf. Discussion was held concerning how Dixie Soccer should participate in paying for the field, and any cost to other organizations.

Mr. Schreiver stated that he did not think it would be fair to ask for money from Dixie Soccer and not from someone else. Mrs. Atkinson said a lot of the contribution from Dixie would come from funding from tournament fees and some of those monies could be allocated to the city. Mr. Schulte said N.K.S.L. pays to use fields for tournaments; the present going rate is \$300 and with the allure of an artificial field, they could possibly ask for more. He reminded council of the flexibility of a 50 x 100 yd field and reaffirmed that Dixie Soccer would be more than happy and willing to participate in funding the field. Discussion was held over concern if the field would fit and where to place it. It was decided to get the numbers on the larger field, including fencing and turf cost, and review the findings at the next meeting.

Ordinance 2006-08-11 Adopting the 2006/2007 Property Tax Rate – 1st Reading – Mr. Wichmann
read Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF ALL REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, THAT IS SUBJECT TO TAXATION FOR CITY PURPOSES, BY THE USE OF THE ANNUAL COUNTY ASSESSMENT THEREOF BY THE PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR OF KENTON COUNTY; AND LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX THEREON FOR CITY PURPOSES DURING THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGINS JULY 1, 2006, AT THE RATE OF \$0.256 DOLLARS FOR EACH ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS OF THE VALUATION THEREOF SO ASSESSED; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAXES, AND PENALTIES AND INTEREST THEREON; AND DESCRIBING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH TAXES SO COLLECTED SHALL BE APPROPRIATED AND USED.

Mr. Grady commented that the property is revalued every 4 years and that accounted for the increase in costs. Mr. Schreiver referred to the July treasures final report and noted that \$184,000 was taken in last year which was more than needed. Mr. Rolfes disagreed stating that the bottom line was that we borrowed from the CIP reserve with the intent to pay ourselves back. He said if we don't pay back what we've taken out, the time will come to replace a large item and the money won't be there. He added that we do not have any unallocated CIP money at this point. Mr. Schreiver read the figures from the 2006 revenues from the total general fund and the July 31, 2006 Budget Net Profits Tax. He compared these with last year and stated that we shorted ourselves in the budget and could not see the need to take the 4% (\$0.256) and felt the .2518 was fair.

Mr. Guenther questioned the impact on the budget if we went with the .2518 rate. Mr. Henson said it would be \$26,000.00 less. He reminded council about the increase on the road fund; Mr. Guenther noted the soccer field and pocket park expense.. In response to Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Rolfes stated that they calculated what the property tax money would generate if they took the 4% when they adopted the budget. He referred to the debt service explaining that if you can start to accrue additional revenue, put it in a sinking fund, you are saving \$3 for every \$1 you spend when you pay off just straight principle once you are eligible. He added that for a relatively small cost to the resident, several million dollars in interest money could be saved down the road. Mr. Rolfes also stated that they would get by with whatever rate is set but the following would be hurt: paying ourselves back, what we would be able to accrue for other projects, our ability to cut down on our long term debt service. Mr. Henson stated that the rate of .256 should generate \$1,660,000 and we have \$1,682,000 in the budget so we would be \$22,000 short if we passed the .256 rate and \$50,000 short if we did not; he was in favor of the .256 for those reasons.

A censuses vote was taken: Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Guenther, and Mr. Henson were in favor of the .256 tax rate. Mr. Grady, Mr. Spears, and Mr. Schreiver were against it. Mr. Spears expressed concern over tax increases every year. Mr. Guenther cited the soccer field and increased money on an annual basis for road maintenance [and expenses associated with the new city building] as just some of the expenses we are responsible for. Mr. Schreiver said we were taking in enough money (\$50,000 more

than we need) and did not see a need to increase it. He also noted that businesses are expanding and there would be more jobs. Mayor Link said all expenses are going up and we would be giving money back to the residents by increasing the street program. Mr. Spears stated that the property tax bill would already be going up as your property is revalued and there is already an inflationary component that impacts your tax bill every 4 years. Mr. Wichmann said the statutory limitation is on your revenue, not on the rate or the valuation, and the tax has to be set at a rate that generates no more than 4% increase in your revenue. Mr. Spears stated that by keeping the same rate as we currently have, it is more than the compensating but less than the 4%. Mr. Rolfes responded that when your property is revalued, the rate could roll back if the property value went up because you can't claim more than a 4% increase.

Municipal Order 2006-10 authorize Mayor to sign Pilot agreement – Mr. Henson made a **motion** to authorize the Mayor to sign Municipal Order 2006-10; second by Mrs. Atkinson. Mr. Guenther voted nay. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 1 nay**

Brookwood Circle Proposal- Mr. Rolfes explained the reason for the request was that the amount of the bid that they received was greater than the amount presented earlier to council. He added that because we felt we would be able to off set that cost with an agreement with the sanitation district, they would not need a budget amendment; he wanted council to recognize that it was higher so we could move on with it and get it done. Mr. Spears noted the money we hoped to receive from the sanitation district would be twice as much as the increase in the bid. Mr. Spears made a **motion** to proceed with the Brookwood Circle project; second by Mr. Schreiber. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays**

Authorization to spend the administration's contingency funds, if needed, for the property tax program - Mr. Rolfes explained that the goal is to get by without having to do that, however, time is of essence and we could not afford to wait. Contingency money cannot be spent without council's authorization. We may have found someone who may be able to get into the existing tax program and make it work for another year, in which case, it may only cost a couple of thousand dollars and be taken from the current budget. The worst-case scenario would be a new program and we would have to tap the contingency. The request would be for up to \$5,000.00 and only for a property tax program.

Mr. Guenther made a **motion** to authorize spending the administration's contingency funds, if needed, for the property tax program. Second by Mr. Spears. **Motion passed: 6 ayes - 0 nays.**

Dixie Heights High School – Mr. Rolfes explained the relocation of the football field at the high school and the problem with the city limits line between Edgewood and Erlanger running through the parking lot towards Kenton Lands. The Board of Education and Bill Scheyer, Erlanger City Administrator, thought it made sense for the non-revenue producing property to be in one city. It would also be easier for the police officers that deal with situations at the school.

Mrs. Atkinson made a **motion** to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to Mayor Otto, Erlanger, asking them to consider de-annexing their portion of the parking lot and Edgewood would annex that property putting the entire school grounds in the City of Edgewood; second by Mr. Spears. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Request to approve emergency repairs by and purchases from Summit Fire Apparatus –

Mrs. Atkinson made a **motion** to approve the purchase of 12 sections of fire hose from Summit fire Apparatus at the cost of \$4411.68 because the item purchased is in the best interest of the public, and the city, due to low bid and best price; second by Mr. Guenther. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Mrs. Atkinson made a **motion** to approve the purchase of strobe lights for Unit 181 light bar from Summit fire Apparatus at the cost of \$64.64 because the item purchased is in the best interest of the public, and the city, due to best price; second by Mr. Spears. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Mr. Guenther made a **motion** to approve the repair of the cracked and broken wand for the joint sealing machine by Summit fire Apparatus at the cost of \$195.15 because the item repaired is in the best interest of the public, and the city, due to emergency repair; second by Mr. Spears. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Pocket Park update – Mr. Rolfes requested authorization of \$33,300.00 to begin the project of demolition, landscaping, and pervious parking. He stated that Moraine concrete would donate 130 yards of concrete to be put in back of the house and General Services would do the work, so there would be very little expense from there. Discussion was held concerning the bids. Mr. Rolfes explained that Pilot was the overall best bid because it was the most complete and it included a lot of costs the lower priced bids did not. He explained that because of the dollar amount they did not go out for formal bids but accepted proposals; they called contractors, gave the same basic information about what they wanted and got different proposals. Mr. Guenther suggested the issue be tabled and make a decision after taking a closer look at some of the bids. Mr. Henson requested more specific information. Mr. Rolfes stated he would spec out what they would like to see, go back to each of the contractors, and see if they would do all of the items for the amount they bid, or would they want to adjust their bids based on the specs. If someone chose not to do an item, it would be marked no bid.

Executive Session per KRS 61.810 (1) (B) Real Estate –

Mr Guenther made a **motion** to enter into Executive Session per KRS 61.810 (1) (B) Real Estate at 8:30 PM; second by Mr. Henson. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Mr. Henson made a **motion** to return to plenary session at 8:40 PM; second by Mrs. Atkinson. **Motion Passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Mayor John D. Link

Attest: _____
Mary Jane Lucas, Sr. Deputy Clerk

Date passed _____